INFORMATION LETTER

Not for Publication — NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION — For Members Only

No. 1767 — Washington, D. C. — February 20, 1960

Senate Labor Committee Discusses Wage-Hour Bill

The Senate Labor Committee discussed the Kennedy wage-hour bill, S.1046, in executive session on February 15 but took no action. The Committee had before it a print of the bill as revised by the Kennedy subcommittee last July, with provisions curtailing seasonal exemptions available to fruit and vegetable processors.

The House Subcommittee on Labor Standards, of which Representative Landrum (Ga.) is chairman, is scheduled to hold hearings on wage-hour legislation. The hearings have now been set to begin March 2.

N.C.A. Lab Holds First 1960 Sanitation Conference

The first of the 1960 Sanitation and Processing Conferences were held for mushroom canners February 10-11 at Kennett Square, Pa., under the joint sponsorship of the N.C.A. Washington Laboratory and the Pennsylvania Canners Association.

The conferences continue the program begun by the Washington Laboratory in 1958. Meetings have been held in Maryland, New Jersey, Indiana, Ohio, Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Iowa, New York, Pennsylvania, and Minnesota. Although plans for this year are not complete, it is hoped that similar conferences will be presented in Virginia, Georgia, Tennessee, Arkansas-Oklahoma, and Louisiana. All canners in these areas will be notified as soon as definite arrangements are made.

The purpose in presenting the Sanitation and Processing Conferences is to anticipate and prevent problems which would require costly curative measures. Satisfactory canning operations, resulting in a product of high quality, free of spoilage and extraneous material, can be expected only when plant employees understand the pitfalls which may occur. Therefore, the conference material is directed to the operating personnel. These foremen, foreladies, and supervisors control directly the many factors involved in efficient operations.

N.C.A.-Industry Program To Prevent Chemical Contamination Is Distributed to Members, Non-Members, Experiment Stations

The N.C.A. program to assure a protective screen against chemical contamination of canned foods—and thereby to maintain the integrity of the industry and its products—was given widespread distribution this week throughout the canning industry.

The protective screen against chemical contamination of canned foods is a three-part program (1) to prevent contamination of the raw product, (2) to prevent the processing of contaminated raw products, and (3) to protect against the addition of illegal chemicals during processing. The program was published as a Supplement to the INFORMATION LETTER of February 13.

Copies of the Supplement have been mailed to all members' headquarters offices and to their other offices on the INFORMATION LETTER mailing list. Copies also were sent to all non-member firms which are known to can fruit and vegetable products.

In addition to the Supplement, copies of the latest official FDA tolerances for pesticides have been mailed to all fruit and vegetable canners.

The N.C.A. also has solicited the cooperation and support of Experiment Stations and Extension Services in states where canning crops are produced, and of the state secretaries in helping to promote understanding of the industry's self-regulation program.

Directors of the State Experiment Stations and Extension Services were asked, in a special Pesticide Newsletter, to cooperate in ensuring that growers and canners in their states follow sound recommendations in applying chemicals on canning crops.

Secretaries of the state and regional canners associations were informed of the N.C.A. program and asked to cooperate in local programs to prevent contamination.

N.C.A. also has sent to all canners a statement on the purpose and uses of the lists of FDA tolerances and the herbicides, nematocides, soil fumigants, and growth regulators which have been registered with USDA.

This statement points out that instructions on applying pesticide chemicals must be obtained from the label on the pesticide container or from the agricultural experiment station. It also points out that certain zero tolerance chemicals may be used in the dormant season but cannot be applied after edible parts start to form.

N.C.A. also is recommending that fieldmen be given only the pesticide chemicals which are recommended by their own company for specific use on the crops grown and which have been prepared in consultation with the State Experiment Station and Extension Service.

FDA Recognizes Tin Cans as Safe

The status of uncoated tin plate as a safe material for food packaging will shortly be reaffirmed in a report which is to appear in the forthcoming issue of the Quarterly Bulletin of the Association of Food and Drug Officials of the United States.

The report, by Dr. A. J. Lehman, Director of the Division of Pharmacology of the FDA, is one of a series on topics of current interest, and will deal with the subject of tin plate.

After reviewing the literature dealing with the pharmacology of tin, the form in which it may be present in foods, and trends in tin usage, the paper as prepared for publication concludes:

"Uncoated tin plate as presently used for general food packaging is safe. The small amount of tin that is contributed to such packaged foods has been found to exist largely as insoluble tin compounds which are of no pharmacological significance."

1959 Packs of Berries

Reports on the 1959 packs of canned berries have been issued by the N. C. A. Division of Statistics.

BLACKBERRIES

State	1958	1959
	(actual cases)	
Northwest	247,179	201,945
Other states	345,003	322,613
U. S. Total	592,182	524,558

On the basis of standard cases of 24 2½, the 1959 peak amounted to 354,650 cases compared with the 1958 pack of 412,256 cases.

BOYSENBERRIES-YOUNGBERRIES

State	1958	1959
	(actual cases)	
Northwest	151,029	125,634
Other states	209,901	163,458
U. S. Total	360,930	289,092

On the basis of standard cases of 24 2½, the 1959 pack amounted to 170,782 cases compared with the 1958 pack of 234,482 cases.

GOOSEBERRIES

State	1958	1959
	(actual cases)	
Northwest	13,949	41,588
Other states	7,748	9,076
U. S. Total	21,697	50,664

On the basis of standard cases of 24/2½, the 1959 pack amounted to 31,874 cases compared with the 1958 pack of 13,717 cases.

LOGANBERRIES

The 1959 pack of canned loganberries in the Northwest totaled 8,044 actual cases compared with 4,191 cases packed there in 1958. On the basis of standard cases of 24/2½, the 1959 pack amounted to 4,766 cases compared with the 1958 pack of 2,441 cases.

1959 Pack of Canned Okra

The 1959 pack of canned okra, including mixtures with corn and tomatoes, totaled 721,854 actual cases compared with the 1958 pack of 987,321 cases, according to a report by the N. C. A. Division of Statistics.

On the basis of standard cases of 24/303's, the 1959 pack amounted to 764,985 cases compared with the 1958 pack of 1,039,106 cases.

Style of Pack	1958	1959
	(actual cases)	
Okra, whole and cut	544,976	440,909
Okra and tomatoes and okra, corn and tomatoes	442,345	280,945
U. S. Total	987,321	721,854

Steps in Incorporating

The Small Business Administration has published a leaflet entitled *Steps in Incorporating a Business*. The leaflet does not discuss the advantages or disadvantages of the corporate firm, but is limited to the actual steps involved once a decision to incorporate has been made. Inasmuch as state laws differ on incorporation, the leaflet gives general pointers and discusses basic requirements.

Copies of the leaflet (Management Aid No. 111) may be obtained from the Small Business Administration, Washington 25, D. C.

1959 Pack of Pimientos

The 1959 pack of canned pimientos totaled 2,204,841 actual cases compared with the 1958 pack of 1,831,047 cases, according to a report by the N.C.A. Division of Statistics.

Container size	Units per case	1958	1959
		(actual cases)	
Tin:			
No. 4Z	24	632,730	716,285
No. 7Z	24	309,519	372,845
No. 14Z	24	19,421	36,561
No. 2½	24	59,094	100,693
No. 10	6	18,051	21,410
Misc.		1,000	1,379
Glass:			
No. 2Z	24	506,390	613,446
No. 4Z	24	244,348	304,804
No. 7Z	24	39,486	36,692
Misc.		306	756
U. S. Total		*1,831,047	2,204,841

* Revised due to revision in units per case. The report is a summary of pack in Ala., Calif., Ga., Miss., N. J., and Tenn.

Loans to Cranberry Growers

USDA has added Oregon to the list of states where the Farmers Home Administration may make emergency loans to eligible cranberry growers through June 30. Other such areas are New Jersey, Massachusetts, and Washington.

Fruit Juice Drinks Exempted from Pennsylvania Sales Tax

Pennsylvania has issued an informal explanation of the change made in the definition of "soft drinks" in the state's sales tax law. The amendment exempts from the state's 4 percent retail sales tax "non-carbonated fruit juice drinks containing not less than 25 percent by volume of natural fruit juices, or of fruit juice which has been reconstituted to its original state."

Pennsylvania has stated, in its Taxpayer's Bulletin No. 20, that retailers are responsible for determining the taxable status of the fruit juice drink and of collecting the tax on products that contain less than 25 percent by volume of natural or reconstituted fruit juice. Taxpayer's Bulletin No. 20 also states:

"In determining such status, a retailer may rely upon descriptive labels affixed to the fruit juice drink containers by the canner or preparer and may classify the drink according to such description, unless, of course, he knows or has reason to know that such description is inaccurate. In the absence of a descriptive label on the container from which the percentage of natural or reconstituted fruit juices can be ascertained, the retailer shall be responsible for obtaining an affidavit from his canner, preparer, or other supplier stating the exact percentage by volume of natural or reconstituted fruit juices."

Price Support on Dry Beans

A total of 1,920,372 hundredweight of dry beans had been put under price support loans and purchase agreements by January 31, compared with 3,210,388 hundredweight under support on the same date a year ago, according to USDA.

Of the 1959-crop dry beans under support, 219,152 hundredweight had been redeemed.

Stocks of Canned Foods on Feb. 1 and Season Shipments

(N.C.A. Division of Statistics)

	Carry-over month	Case basis	Supply 1958-59	Supply 1959-60	Canners Stocks, Feb. 1 1959	Canners Stocks, Feb. 1 1960	Season Shipments to Feb. 1 1959	Season Shipments to Feb. 1 1960
			(thousands of cases)					
Apples	Sept.	6/10	4,564	1,766	2,514	2,060	2,050	1,796
Applesauce	Sept.	actual	17,393	18,878	9,762	11,250	7,631	7,629
R8P cherries	July	actual	2,851	4,326	909	1,671	1,942	2,655
Beans, green and wax	July	actual	31,593	30,574	15,396	13,259	16,207	17,314
Beans, lima	Aug.	actual	3,309	3,562	1,744	1,544	1,654	2,018
Corn	Aug.	actual	37,258	42,823	18,256	20,904	19,092	21,919

Status of Legislation

Senate and House bills of particular interest to the canning industry are described below, together with a report of their current status:

Antitrust enforcement—S. 11 and H. R. 11, to strengthen the Robinson-Patman Act with respect to alleged price discrimination, are pending before the Senate and House Judiciary Committees, respectively. (N. C. A. has registered its opposition.) S. 716, to authorize the Justice Department to compel the production of documents in civil antitrust cases, was passed by the Senate last year and is pending before the House Antitrust Subcommittee.

Cease-and-desist orders—H. R. 8841, to amend the Federal Trade Commission Act to provide for the issuance of temporary cease-and-desist orders to prevent certain acts and practices awaiting the outcome of FTC proceedings, is pending before the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee.

Color additives—S. 2197, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to the use of color additives, was passed by the Senate last year, with amendments, and is pending before the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee. Hearings on this and a similar bill, H. R. 7624, were conducted by the House committee Jan. 26, 27, and 29 and Feb. 10 and 11. (See INFORMATION LETTER of Feb. 13 for a report of N.C.A.'s position.)

Co-op bargaining—H. R. 1793, to authorize cooperative associations of producers to bargain with purchasers singly or in groups, is pending before the House Judiciary Committee.

Co-op marketing—S. 2014, to authorize associations of agricultural producers to own and operate marketing facilities, is pending before the Senate Agriculture Committee.

Family farm income act—H.R. 10355 and similar bills pending before House Agriculture Committee would make canning crops subject to marketing orders and provide for collective bargaining for price.

Farm labor—H.R. 9869, 9871, and 9875, to amend title V of the Agricultural Act of 1949 to require joint approval by the Secretaries of Agriculture and Labor in the issuance of regulations affecting the wages and working conditions of agricultural labor, are pending before the House Committee on Agriculture.

Federal preemption—H.R. 3, to establish rules of interpretation concerning the effect of an Act of Congress on state laws, was passed by the House last year and is pending before the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee which conducted hearings last year on a similar bill, S. 3. (N.C.A. has requested that federal food regulatory laws be excluded from the scope of these bills.)

Marketing orders—H.R. 9693, to amend the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937 to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to issue marketing orders with respect to certain processed fruits, is pending before the House Domestic Marketing Subcommittee. H.R. 642, to provide flexibility in the operation of marketing agreement programs, and H.R. 1070, to extend the applicability and coverage of marketing agreements and orders, are also pending before the House Agriculture Committee.

Migrant labor—The following bills are pending before the Senate Subcommittee on Migratory Labor: S. 1778 and S. 2498, to require crewleader licensing; S. 1085 and S. 2141, to regulate the wages and hours of migrant farm workers and their children; and S. 2864 and S. 2865, to provide funds for the education of migrant farm workers and their children. Companion bills have been introduced in the House.

Minimum wage—S. 1046, to increase the minimum wage and reduce the overtime exemptions of fruit and vegetable canners, is pending before the Senate Labor Committee. (N.C.A. has filed a statement in opposition to changes in the overtime exemptions.) H.R. 4488, a similar bill, is pending before the House Subcommittee on Labor Standards.

Poultry marketing—S. 430, to provide for the orderly marketing of turkeys, is pending before the Senate Agriculture Committee. (N.C.A. opposes application to canning.)

Pre-merger notification—H.R. 9896 and S. 442, to amend the Clayton Act to provide for prior notification and suspension of certain mergers and acquisitions, are pending before the House Judiciary Committee. H.R. 2325 is pending before the House Antitrust Subcommittee.

Price-increase notification—S. 215, to require certain corporations to file advance notice of proposed price increases, is pending before the Senate Antitrust and Monopoly Subcommittee. H.R. 4934 is pending before the House Judiciary Committee.

Price-increase hearings—H.R. 6263, to authorize the Government to hold public hearings on price or wage increases, prospective or actual, which appear to threaten national economic stability, has been reported by the House Government Operations Committee. S. 2382, a companion bill, is pending before the Senate Banking Committee.

1959 Shipments of Metal Cans

Shipments of metal cans during the calendar year 1959 exceeded the volume shipped during 1958 by almost 4 percent, according to a report by the Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce.

Shipments of cans for fruit and vegetable products were only slightly larger than the shipments during 1958.

Shipments of cans for meat and poultry products in 1959 increased about 7½ percent over 1958.

However, the volume of cans shipped for fishery products was down 6½ percent.

Shipments of cans in the "all other food" category, including soups and baby foods, were about 2 percent greater than in 1958.

Total 1959 shipments of cans "for own use" were down about 3 percent.

	1958	1959
	(short tons of steel)	
Fruit and vegetable (including juice)	1,550,758	1,561,976
Fish and sea food	123,602	115,453
Meat (including poultry)	135,961	140,026
Evaporated and condensed milk	206,987	203,412
Other dairy products	35,678	31,221
Coffee	209,004	220,973
Lard and shortening	109,811	107,146
Soft drink	36,660	49,102
Beer	820,480	901,127
Pet food	173,135	180,468
Oil, open top	271,960	292,336
All other food (including soup and baby food cans)	494,060	504,895
All other nonfood	583,608	630,682
Total	4,760,704	4,944,187
Shipments for own use	609,438	648,371
Shipments for sale	4,091,266	4,295,446

Shipments of Glass Containers

Shipments of glass containers for food during the calendar year 1959 exceeded the volume shipped during 1958, according to a report by the Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce.

Shipments of wide-mouth food containers were 2 percent greater than during 1958. Shipments of narrow-neck food containers were up 6 percent.

Aggregate shipments of all types of glass containers during 1959 were 6 percent greater than the volume shipped during 1958.

	1958	1959
	(thousands of gross)	
Wide-mouth food (including fuit jars and jelly glasses)	42,100	42,918
Narrow-neck food	15,182	16,033

Vegetable Committee Advises Emphasis on Basic Research

An immediate increase in the USDA's basic research effort is needed if the nation hopes to meet the food and fiber requirements of the next generation, according to members of USDA's Vegetable Research and Marketing Advisory Committee, which held its annual meeting in Washington February 8-11.

The importance of fundamental studies, the committee pointed out, is based on the fact that it takes nearly a generation to work out solutions to practical production and marketing problems, using the earlier results of basic research.

Expanded research is needed to develop new or improved methods and instruments for measuring the important quality factors used in setting grade standards for both raw and processed vegetables, the committee said. The methods should be nondestructive and aimed at developing improved automatic sorting equipment with its many advantages.

The committee also urged revision of grade standards that will reflect accurately the actual market qualities that affect transactions between buyers and sellers in the market place. Primary attention in this work should be directed toward revised standards for important processed commodities like tomatoes, peas, beans, and corn.

Basic research on important vegetables is also needed to determine the relationships between their physical and chemical composition and their appeal to consumers, as well as their nutritive value when prepared at home by different cooking methods, according to the committee.

The committee advised that studies of chemical and physical properties of vegetables are of high priority importance as a basis for processing improvements.

Special attention should be given to basic research on vegetable plant breeding with particular stress on such goals as plants with disease and insect resistance, adaptability to new processing techniques, adaptability to new production and harvesting techniques, and plants that produce superior quality in vegetables, the committee said.

The committee's detailed recommendations for research to be undertaken by USDA will be submitted formally to the Department. Copies of this report will be available from the committee's executive secretary, Dr. Roy Magruder, Office of the Administrator, Agricultural Research Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

Russell H. Winters, vice president in charge of sales of the National Can Corporation, Chicago, was elected chairman, and E. O. Williams, Lucas County (Ohio) agricultural agent, Toledo, was named vice chairman.

Other committee members who attended included Morton Adams, executive vice president of the Alton Canning Co., Alton, N. Y.; J. F. Dezauche, J. F. Dezauche & Son, Opelousas, La.; and F. M. Smith, vice president and general manager of the Stayton Canning Co., Stayton, Ore.

Joseph R. Braden

Joseph R. Braden, 67, who retired recently as vice president in charge of sales of Richmond-Chase Company, San Jose, Calif., died February 13 as a result of a heart attack.

He had spent more than 40 years with the canning industry. A graduate of Stanford University, he had started work with Pratt-Low Preserving Company of Santa Clara and was its president at the time he severed his connection. He had been associated with Richmond-Chase Company for the past 14 years.

Mr. Braden had been very active in the N. C. A. labeling program and was on the Labeling Committee and Claims Committee for the past five years. He also was active in the Canners League of California.

British Actor Harvey Lauds Canned Foods on Radio

British movie actor Laurence Harvey will discuss his favorable reactions to canned foods on the daily radio show "Celebrity Talks," on February 25. This is the interview program conducted by Maggi McNellis, which is part of the N. C. A. Consumer and Trade Relations activity. The program is broadcast on some 300 stations throughout the United States, Canada, and Mexico, and will be found listed for that date in local radio columns.

Mr. Harvey starred in such well-known pictures as "Room at the Top," "Butterfield Eight," and "The Alamo," and is booked for a dozen or more new pictures, including the forthcoming "Expresso Bongo."

While on Texas location making "The Alamo," he was impressed by the advantages of canned foods and in his recorded interview with Miss McNellis stated that he, along with about 550 in the cast plus three to four thousand extras, lived for approximately four months on nothing but canned foods. He spoke about the pleasure he derived from canned corn, fruits, and tuna, which are not easily obtained in England. He mentioned specifically his enjoyment of canned chili, corned beef hash, baked beans, petit-pois, meat loaf, and especially canned ham.

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